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Prayers  
*The Ascending  
Trail*

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Bartlett

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ROBERT MERRILL BARTLETT

# Boys' Prayers

The Ascending  
Trail



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TO  
ROBERT HILL BARTLETT  
WITH THE PRAYER THAT  
HE MAY REACH  
THE SUMMIT



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WE ALL have a land of Beyond to seek in life. Our part is to find the trail that leads to it. A long trail, a hard trail, maybe; but the call comes to us and we have to go. Rooted deep in the nature of every one of us is the spirit of adventure, vibrating under all our actions, making life deeper, higher, and nobler. There's a whisper of the night-wind, there's a star agleam to guide us, and the Wild is calling, calling. Let us go!

—FRIDTJOF NANSEN



• I •

# *The Journey*





# The Ascending Trail


|| BOW before thee, O unseen spirit, whom men call God. Thou art from everlasting to everlasting, and thy years fail not. Of old hast thou laid the foundations of the earth. In thy sight a thousand years are but a watch in the night. O divine power who hast proved to be the abiding place of all generations, I realize as I pray that I am part of an infinite world, that I am capable of achievements not yet realized. O thou who dost live beyond change and confusion, ever greater than my thoughts, ever higher than my hopes, ever more steadfast than my loyalties, I come to thee, believing that thou art a friend closer to me than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet.

I praise thee. I bow before thee. I pledge myself to follow thee. Help me to sense that the yearning within me is thy spirit calling me to seek something better than I have known. Too long have I stumbled along alone, when I should have been walking with thee. Too long have I followed unworthy goals, when I should have been inspired by a glorious ideal. Too long have I been ruled by pride and greed, when I should have been lifted up by the adventurous life of service. Cleanse now the thoughts of my heart by the inspiration of thy holy spirit, that I may perfectly love thee and worthily magnify thy holy name.

Eternal God, the beginning and the end of existence is to know thee. The career of man is one long quest for thee. In the morning of life, may I train

my mind to think thy thoughts after thee. As I journey onward, may I climb each day a little higher along the ascending trail that leads to knowledge of thee, until I stand at last upon the summit and achieve the fulfilment of myself. AMEN.

# Morning

 GOD, who art light, and in whom there is no darkness at all, I praise thee for the radiance of the morning. The sun breaks through the mist, the bird sings his song of cheer, and the trees lift their faces upward in trustfulness. So I would commit myself to thee, O God, knowing that, whatever the day holds for me, thou art my guide and protector.

Help me to throw open the windows of my mind, and to see beyond myself to wider horizons of opportunity and usefulness. Show me clearly what my duty is, and help me to be faithful in fulfilling it.

This morning I have turned a new and spotless page in the book of my life. Help me to write upon it only what is worthy in thy sight, so that, when the evening comes and my work is done, I may look back upon it with satisfaction and go to my rest with content.

If today some friend hurts me, let me not be discouraged. If I fail, help me to try again and forget the failure. If doubt and fear overtake me, drive them from me, my Father, as the morning light drives back the shadows of the night. Make me strong in self-control. Banish all low desires. Incline my will to obey thy laws. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight. AMEN.

## *Faith to Believe*

ETERNAL Father, life moves around me, ever changing like shifting clouds in the sky. The faith of yesterday is questioned, and I am confused about what I should believe. I come to thee, who hast been in all centuries like a rock of refuge amid the breaking waves of change.

God of power, I confess my weakness and pray that I may be strong. I want to possess a disciplined body and vigor of health that will make me tireless at work, and able to meet and overcome the burdens of life. God of wisdom, I pray that my mind may find certainty and that well-ordered beliefs may guide me through the chaos about me.

Amid so much that is fleeting, I thank thee for values that endure: for the heritage of hope from those who have lived before me, for friends who believe in me, for the ideals that summon me to a life of service. Help me to penetrate superficialities and falsehoods, to build my philosophy upon truth, and to hold firmly to great ideals.

Take my lips and speak through them; take my mind and kindle it with thoughts of thee; take my will and set it on fire to do thy will and to serve thy children. AMEN.



# Fear

**D**EAR Father, I recall how, as a little child, I was afraid of the dark, but as I grew in understanding, that fear disappeared from my mind. So I pray that I may have faith to believe that my present fears will likewise be mastered if I face them with intelligence, and trust in thy loving care.

May I never be ashamed of my fears, realizing that all men are troubled by them. May I bring them out into the light, face them frankly, and conquer them under the healing power of reason. Instead of surrendering, help me courageously to push forward in the face of what may seem to be failures and reverses. Help me to understand that the tasks I dread are seldom as difficult as I thought they would be. Help me to remember, in moments of fright, how in other days I have come through better than I expected, and to learn to trust in the extra strength that is supplied in times of testing. May I remember that every experience that can come to me has been faced by someone before me, and that I also will find power to overcome my obstacles.

Save me, O God, from crossing my bridges before I come to them. Teach me to live a day at a time, and not waste my strength worrying about what lies ahead. As I reach out to the unknown, I find that what I once dreaded is not there, that my fears retreat before knowledge. Give me, I pray, the light of knowledge that can push back the

lurking fears that hover in the darkness, that I may conquer all such weakness and live in faith and confidence.   **AMEN.**

# The Stars



THOU who didst create the universe, the planetary system, and the earth, I marvel when I learn of the vastness and the order about me. Thy purposes abide through millions of years, as generations of men come and go. I lie on my back in the summer night and watch the Great Dipper, the North Star, the Milky Way; and my thoughts reach beyond the earth as I know it, into a greater realm. I see a shooting star and follow it off into the unknown. I think of the astronomers who, through the centuries, have peered into space seeking to measure the unfathomed distances, of the secrets discovered through man's searching, and of the mysteries that still remain to be explored.

O thou who didst set the stars in their courses, I think of the desert travelers and the mariners on stormy seas who have looked up to the constellations and have been guided on their way by the lights that always keep their appointed course. When the sun fails and darkness falls, these beacons come forth in the shadowed sky to light man on his homeward journey.

As the stars remain in their places through the storm and shine on when clouds depart, so thy love abides through change and confusion. Teach me, I pray thee, more of the eternal meaning of life. Make me conscious of the divine powers about me and within me, that I may conquer weakness and make my life triumphant. AMEN.

## Perseverance

**G**RACIOUS Father, give me the courage to hold to the right and to carry on in the face of opposition. Keep me ever conscious of the enduring principles of truth that outlive the opinions of men. When others deride me and I am tempted to compromise with my ideals and try an easier way, when the struggle seems too difficult and fear chills my heart, help me, I pray, to think of thy purposes that undergird every right thought and deed. When I am challenged to pay the price for my convictions, grant me the strength that, in days gone by, sustained the valiant men who dared to remain loyal.

Help me to persevere in my determination to find a program to guide my life, to meditate a few minutes each day in thy presence, and to develop inner strength to conquer all the influences that tend to pull me down. Equip me for the contests of life with an unshakable faith and an unconquerable hope. O Lord God of hosts, inspire me to follow the everlasting road upon which the heroes of the past have walked in comradeship with thee. Help me to cling to goodness, truth, and beauty, and in the end to win the victory that comes to those who persevere in thy name. AMEN.

## Peace of Mind

ETERNAL God, I turn from the noise and hurrying of life to the peace that can be found only in thy presence. Forgive me for my restlessness. Enter into my mind, I pray thee, freeing me from confusion of ideas. O thou who dost transform the hearts of those who seek thee, teach me to cultivate the serene mind, which knows how to turn to thee in time of turmoil and be at peace.

Save me from the enemies of worry and weariness. Save me from irritation over trivialities and restless striving after unworthy goals. Center my efforts upon the ordering of my mind, the strengthening of my character, the serving of others, and the possession of the fruits of culture.

Support me in my resolution to take time to live, to talk each day with thee, and to achieve a serenity that none of the powers of the world can shatter. In the realm of silence, may I learn to possess thy wisdom and thy peace.

I wait now before thee, eager to receive thee. Still my passions, conquer my weakness. Come, gracious spirit, come. AMEN.

## *Dreams*

**A**Lmighty God, father of humanity, I remember in thy presence the prophets and pioneers, who, through the centuries have dreamed of progress and of peace, and have toiled to make life nobler and happier. As I think of this heroic company, my heart is quickened with the high resolve to serve as they served. Kindle in me a living flame, that I may bear the torch of thy light to my fellow men. Unite me with those who strive for progress, and inspire me to serve with their unselfish devotion.

O God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, keep me from living in the past, from failing to sense the challenge of the present and the summons of the future. Save me from side-stepping my responsibilities and waiting for someone else to do my job. Help me to use every atom of strength to make the dream of a better life come true in the present hour. May my lips speak words of courage; may my hands be ever eager for helpful service; and may my feet dare to follow the path of those who lead onward toward the establishment of the "golden age" in my day. AMEN.



# Spring

ETERNAL God, my creator and preserver, I thank thee for the spring, through which thou art renewing the earth and quickening all living things. I look to thee, whose power is beyond my reason to understand. In the light of thy perfection, I sense my shortcomings and pray that I may possess the wisdom to make my life radiant and successful. O thou who dost stir from sleep every slumbering cell, quicken my faith and revive my thoughts.

The meadows are carpeted with tender green, after their long winter slumber; the woods are touched with color; and flowers look up with bright faces from the earth, which but yesterday was drab and barren. The birds, busy building their nests, pour out the jubilation of their songs. It is good to be alive!

O infinite leader who hast awakened the world, grant that, turning my back upon the shadows of old failures, I may turn my face in new hope toward the future. Give me clear eyes to see the highest, a brave heart to love it, and a steadfast will to follow it. Let thy creative spirit lead me into truth, liberate me from sin, refresh me with courage, and rule my mind in all things. AMEN.

## Doubt

DEAR Father, my mind is confused by the happenings of the world, by the conflict of nations, by the crimes of men. I cannot understand why people repudiate the ideals of thy prophets and destroy the harmony of the earth through greed and strife, and why hunger and fear stalk across the globe.

O God, I long to know that, back of the chaos, there is some abiding power upholding the truth, that I may understand the meaning of life and not be overcome by doubt. I want to rest my life in thee and upon the unchanging values that undergird our existence.

Help me to grow beyond questioning into a faith that the forces of evil cannot destroy. Link me with thy abiding purposes, which reach like a chain through the ages, binding men together into a fellowship of faith so strong that it cannot be broken.

As the rising sun scatters the darkness of the night, may thy truth free me from the shadows of my doubt, leaving me confident and unafraid.  
AMEN.

## *Living Up to My Ideals*

**D**EAR Father, I know that my life falls far short of thy ideal for me. I spend too much time seeking after material things, instead of keeping close to lasting realities. I am inclined to follow my own wishes, instead of considering the good of others. Forgive me for all my failures, and do not permit the glory of thy purposes to die out in my heart.

Keep me from descending to the level of my low desires, and lift my actions to the level of the prayers that I make unto thee. Save me from being useless in a world that yearns for the good that I can create. Teach me, O Father, a stronger faith in thee as a living power in my life.

Grant me, I pray, a mightier loyalty to thy church, which is the chief center of my faith. Give me, O eternal leader, the enthusiasm to overcome discouragement and to extend confidence and good cheer about me. Let me serve and not grow weary, sacrifice and not begrudge the cost, and achieve something worthy of the best that is in me. AMEN.

## Freedom

**D**IVINE creator, who hast placed me in this majestic universe, help me, I pray thee, to become a temple of thy spirit. If some wall of care has shut me off from the message of nature, give me a new vision of the beauty about me. If I have been too busy with trivial things to reach beyond petty thoughts to thy purposes for me, forgive and change me.

If the prison gates of selfishness keep me from opening my mind to the demands of kindness, let me accept the Christian standards of helpfulness and venture forth on the highway of service. If barriers like snobbery have risen between me and my daily companions, forgive me and free me from such enslavement.

Break down these iron walls and barriers, O spirit of light and truth, and free me from my past enemies through the transforming power of love. Remove these obstacles that have stood between me and the adventure of living, and set me in harmony with thee and with my fellow men. AMEN.


# Music

GOD, I thank thee for the universal language of music, which transcends the limitations of nation and race. Its sweetly echoing tones soften my heart and quicken my impulses to love, purify me from greed, and impel me to dream of what is noble and good. I am grateful for the capacity of man to express in song what cannot be put into words, for the outreach of the human spirit toward thy infinite truth and beauty.

I praise thee for the toil and discipline of men of genius who, through the centuries, have poured out their souls and inscribed their visions in immortal melodies: Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Franck, Schubert, Brahms, Grieg, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Foster, Tschaikovsky, Gershwin. Their messages still speak peace and hope to me, as they open doorways into the universe of inspiration. Following reverently in their footsteps, I enter the realm where I realize that beauty and truth are more abiding than anything else I can know.

O master artist, teach me, I pray thee, to understand the realm of music; and, entering in, may I become a familiar visitor within its halls and palaces. Although I may not have the gift of creating music, help me to catch its spirit and message from others and appropriate its blessings. Set my life free from the discords of anxiety and strife, and let me become part of that harmonious company who live with radiance and joy and sing thy praises evermore. **AMEN.**

# Lifework

 THOU who hast given unto men many and varying gifts, that the work of the world might be done, that thy plan for humanity might be carried forward, that we might labor together in harmony for the good of all, help me to find my place and to fulfill it with honor and devotion. Give me wisdom to seek out the best possible advice in planning my lifework and to make every moment count in preparation for it. May I find a vocation that will reward me financially and also develop within me the finer sensibilities—beauty, culture, and unselfishness—that make life rich and satisfying.

When I see others receive financial rewards greater than my own, let me not be discouraged or give way to the feeling that my efforts are unimportant, remembering that the greatest servants of humanity, men whose names are honored through the ages, have disregarded money and material possessions. And if good fortune should come to me, may I remain humble, knowing that all that I own comes from thee and my fellow men; and help me to share it freely with others.

Save me, my Father, from the temptation to short cuts, from compromise with my ideals, from all dishonorable practices. Help me to be a credit to my profession, faithful and diligent, upholding its standards, that I may be honored and loved by those about me. AMEN.

# Surrender

GOD, my Father, thou art the center of my hopes and dreams. To be separated from thee means unhappiness; to be in harmony with thee brings me joy. Teach me thy wisdom. I would turn from my wilful pride and selfish desires, and surrender myself fully to thee.

I am weary and disheartened, and long for thy guidance. The doubts that haunt my mind seem to go from me when I pray to thee. I have struggled long enough, seeking my own way and my own desires, and have gained nothing. I am tired of battling and long to find a power that can lift me out of myself. All that I long to be, thou art, my Father. I am ignorant, but with thee there is wisdom. I grope amid shadows of doubt, but with thee there is light that never fails. Counting on thy laws to protect me, realizing that I can never live beyond thy care, may I surrender myself and have no fear for whatever may come.

Let thy light shine deep into my soul, O God, calming my restless striving, freeing me from caution, liberating the best that is within me. May I heed thy call, and yield myself completely to thee.

AMEN.

## Summer



DIVINE spirit, who didst create this summer world, open my eyes to see its wonders and my heart to feel its beauty. During these hours in the out-of-doors, I would draw near to thee through the marvels of thy handiwork.

May the stillness of the forests and the steadfastness of the hills teach me the secret of peace. Calm my fretful spirit, O God. Let the current of my life flow deep like the river, that I may acquire wisdom to understand thy abiding purposes, which move on through the centuries amid chance and change. May I sense the protection afforded by the laws that guide nature and learn to live in harmony with them.

My cares and fears steal from me as I stand in silence under the infinite sweep of the sky, with the unfolding mystery of life about me. I feel thy nearness. I open the windows of my mind to thy healing power. May the inspiration of this moment guide me through the days to come. AMEN.



# Sportsmanship

SPIRIT of truth and justice, I pray for courage to be like those men who, regardless of the odds against them, cannot be defeated and who never look at life with malice or regret. Along the common way I meet them, day by day, continually losing, yet ever rising up to begin again. Their valor shames me for my weakness. O God, I know that life is like a game of give and take. I ask for strength to play it like a man.

It is hard to take the harsh words, the cutting remark, the deceitful thrust without hitting back. But keep me, my Father, from anger. Control my speech and strengthen my will, lest I fall short of my ideals. Help me to meet reverses with a cheerful face and resolute determination. Grant that adversity may never destroy my confidence in myself and in the right.

When I am tired and weary, and the game seems to be going against me, I pray for the nobility of spirit that never surrenders in despair, but impels me to contend for the right, to give and not to count the cost, to serve and ask no reward except the satisfaction of doing thy will. AMEN.

## *In Sickness*

SPIRIT of Love, who art the source of healing and of peace, my body is weary and my mind is troubled. I call upon thee in my sickness, O compassionate Father, because I know that thou canst help me. I feel that thou art bearing my pain with me and that it is not thy will that I should suffer.

Help me to endure patiently, that I may not increase my pain through rebellion and fretfulness. Let me center my mind upon thee and thy words of love and tenderness, and may my spirit walk "in green pastures, beside the still waters." In my anxiety and restlessness, calm me and assure me. Help me to triumph over my suffering and to win my way back to health, that I may soon be able to play my role in life again.

O God, may I sink back upon thy loving care, quietly and trustfully, as a child relaxes in its mother's arms. I thank thee for all the happy experiences of my life and for the sustaining power their joyous remembrance brings to me.

I feel a new sympathy for all others who are ill and pray for them, that they may find hope and recovery. And when I go again about my work may I hold to this spirit of understanding and tenderness toward my fellow men, and be more willing to help those who need me. AMEN.

# Trees

WHEN I walk over the silent carpet of needles, beneath the towering pines, I give thanks for the peace of the forest. Down cathedral aisles I wander, looking upward to the branches that reach toward the sky. The sun filters down through the tree tops, shedding its mystic light upon my path. In the presence of the trees, which have outlived generations of men, I feel close to thee, O divine creator.

I find the work of a master artist in the changing moods of the woods: when limbs bow low with snow and winter's silence broods; when arbutus and lady's slippers blossom with the spring; when summer suns shine upon the glistening green of mosses and vines; when the magic of the frost transforms branches, which send their foliage drifting downward, to sleep with the leaves of a thousand autumns upon the bosom of the earth.

The trees become symbols of life to me: the elm, spreading its shade in the pasture over the resting herd; the weeping willow, dipping its boughs in the stream where I fish; the apple tree, hovering close to the home of man, offering its fruit at harvest time—life with meaning, beauty, and peace. Amid the trees, I lift up my prayer to thee. Accept my faith, my longing to know and to serve thee. What is indifferent, wilt thou awaken; what is lacking, wilt thou supply. And help me to strive valiantly, trusting in thee, who art my helper in this world and in the world to come. AMEN.


## Ambition

**F**ORGIVE me, O God, when I neglect the gift that is within me, when I become content with the second best and forget the vows that I have made to seek after the highest. It is so easy for me to lower my aim, to compromise, and to waste my energies. Save me from procrastination, from marking time when I should be moving forward. Give me courage to begin when the job is hard and I am tempted to wait and to postpone.

Great leader, bring order out of the chaos of my plans. Help me to know what to live for, how to plan my days of preparation, and to make everything count for something in the development of my life. When I grow weak, grant me an unswerving purpose. When I slump into lethargy and laziness, give me courage to keep on working. Save me from wasting my time, from unworthy action, from all dishonorable deeds.

Give me wisdom to discover what is most worth while in education, vocation, and social relations; and then give me courage to keep faith in these ideals. Help me to accept the challenge that the work of the world offers to my muscle and brain. May I use my talents to the fullest, to build happiness for myself and for others. AMEN.

## Graciousness

 DIVINE Creator, who brought into being the world of light and shadow, of bird and flower, I seek to learn more of the art of living. Forgive me, I pray, for my carelessness and crudity. May the pattern of Jesus' life become so much a part of my daily habits that I may begin to reveal his graciousness to others. Let me be quick to say the pleasing word, to run the errand, to offer my chair, to cover up another's mistake. Grant me more of his magnanimous spirit when things go against me; make me more tolerant and more considerate of my daily associates.

Transform, infinite Father, my insensitive ways through the contagion of kindness. Keep me patient with those who try me most, cheerful when I am upset, and chivalrous to those who are in trouble. Enlarge my self-esteem with a love that knows no boundaries. Redeem my pride with a consideration for others that reaches out like the sunlight to scatter happiness through the world.

Grant that I may possess something of the chivalry of Jesus, who taught us how to live with sympathy and generosity toward all people. AMEN.

## Temperance

**F**ORGIVE me, my Father, for turning away from the highest and the best. It is easy to drift from what is right when the crowd calls for me to follow. In such moments, I need thy support. Help me to use wisely the resources of my life and the resources of the world about me. Grant me the moral strength to control impulses to intemperance and the good judgment to keep myself free from injurious habits.

O thou who didst create my body as a living temple, help me to keep it clean and pure. May I avoid all physical excesses. Let no evil practice hold me in its captivity and injure my body and mind. Give me moral strength and sound judgment. Deliver me from indifference, weakness, and compromise with wrong. Teach me to find true liberty through obeying thy laws.

I rejoice that thou art my refuge and my strength, that I may come to thee in moments of temptation. I know thou art full of compassion and ready to forgive my weakness. Lift me above the low levels of behavior, and inspire me to live with discipline and power. AMEN.

# The Ocean



GOD, thy sea is so vast and our boats are so small. My little thoughts reach out to explore the expanse of waters that mingles with the sky. Thy power created this mighty sweep of the ocean and holds the seven seas upon the surface of the earth!

The ships, trailing their smoke on the horizon, pass by and move on into the distance, leading my thoughts off to far away lands. The pageantry of the centuries passes before me—the crude canoes of primitive men, the junks of the Pacific, clipper ships, the mighty steam vessels of the twentieth century—representing the age-old quest of man's mind to explore distant horizons and to discover new frontiers. O living spirit, who hast inspired men to seek after truth, give me the courage to venture forth upon the course of life.

The swells break gently on the smooth beach, where sands washed in by a million tides and storms mingle together. Generations and centuries come and go, yet thou art forever the same. The ever-changing tides ebb and flow with clocklike regularity, reminding me of the great mind that controls, not only the ocean, but the infinite spaces of the universe. Surely, I may rest my life in thy guidance.

Sometimes I hear the breakers roar upon the rocks and watch the whitecaps tumble upon an angry gray sea, and I feel the mighty powers of nature that are beyond the control of man. Again

the ocean spreads before me like a pond, silver in the moonlight, and I sense that calm always follows the storm and rest comes to those who endure. May I learn to rest my life in thee, eternal God; and after I have done my best, throw off my fears and worries, and trust thy power to care for me. AMEN.



## Reverence

FATHER, who doth look with love upon all men, I pray that I may be reverent toward life. I realize that there is a power greater than I can understand which brought the universe into being. Back of the beauty and order of the world is the mystery of the presence men call God.

Forgive me when I am dominated by self-satisfaction and arrogance, and fail to recognize the touch of thy hand about me. Help me to realize that all life, from the highest to the lowest, is sacred. May I never scorn the smallest part of thy creation. Help me to be especially reverent toward human life, showing courtesy and consideration for old age, for children, for the handicapped, and for the helpless. May I realize that no part of life, however lowly and despised, is completely separated from thee, and that therefore every person deserves my respect and sympathy.

Let me never be filled with pride for what I am, realizing that the good lot that is mine came through the labor of others. Keep me from being puffed up because of any success of my own. O God, keep me reverent toward my parents, my teachers, and the leaders of my community. Give me the open mind and the humble spirit, that I may always be willing to learn from others. Help me to be ever alert to the wonder of the world, with an ever-developing interest in the drama of life about me. AMEN.

## Endurance



DIVINE companion, help me to live today as master of myself, with firm control over the temptation to compromise with the second best. I do not want to be among those who enter every good cause and soon fall out because of weakness. Save me from being a quitter, and teach me the discipline that will enable me to carry on.

Help me to hold to the right when it is unpopular and to blaze the way for new truth. Forbid that I should be content with half-truths, with the mediocre, and with work poorly done. Renew my enthusiasm when it falters, give me a new grip on myself, and strengthen my will to win.

I realize that my religion centers in a cross that calls for heroic endurance. I would turn from ease and indifference to the cross of Jesus, which towers over the wreckage left by men's arguments and lusts. In the spirit of his sacrificial courage, the secret is made clear. Without following the everlasting road of serving with thee for the good of humanity, I can never gain the victory the heroes have won. Let me "put on the whole armor of God, that I may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." AMEN.

## Science


GOD eternal, I feel thee calling me in the pages of books, as I follow the scientists in their quest for truth and sense the mystery that lies beyond their discoveries. I thank thee for searchers in laboratories, shops, and factories who push ahead after new secrets when others halt in despair, who seek diligently for new truth, risking health in order to conquer diseases that have long enslaved humanity, endangering their safety before the perils of unfathomed secrets. I realize how much humanity owes to searchers of the skies, explorers of the sea and earth, students of atomic energy and cosmic rays. I know there are new frontiers to be explored and new treasures yet to be discovered, and pray that I may help in some way to find them.

I remember with gratitude the great company of pioneers—Copernicus, Galileo, Newton; Priestley, Roentgen, Einstein, Compton; Lister, Pasteur, the Curies, Osler, Noguchi, Gorgas, Banting; Bell, Burbank, Edison—men of many centuries and nations who have sought the truth, not because of what they might gain personally, but because of what they might contribute to mankind.

These trailblazers bring me close to thee, O creator of the universe. All my seeking leads me to thee, for thou art the sum total of the best that men think and the mystery beyond their striving. As brooks and rivers turn to the ocean, so all that I learn of truth draws me on to thy power. Keep

me ever reverent before the meaning of life and worthy to follow in the footsteps of these servants of progress. AMEN.

# Sanctuary

 FOUNTAIN of wisdom, from whence refreshing thoughts flow into human minds, I come to thee. I come as a tired traveler who has walked along the dusty road of life. I turn from the caravans that journey across the earth to rest for a moment in the oasis of prayer.

I would meditate in thy presence. Grant me a clearer idea of the direction I should take and how best to carry my burdens. Away from the burning sun and safe from the dusty road, I find peace and quiet. Help me to carry from this moment of prayer the assurance of thy companionship, as I return to the pathway of duty. Through each hour of this day, may I be guided by the quietness and confidence I have found during these moments with thee.

O God of love, fill my mind with such faith in thee that no duty may seem too hard for me; and grant that, trusting in thy protecting care, I may grow unafraid of evil and finally achieve the victory over life which thou hast promised to those who love thee. AMEN.

## Forgiveness



GOD of love and compassion, I come to thee with penitent heart, for I have sinned against thee and my fellow men. Forgive me, O God, and help me to sin no more. I am torn with grief and anguish of heart. I cannot rest until I have found peace.

Give me strength to make right, as far as possible, the wrong that I have done and to forgive others as thou forgivest me. Save me from bitterness and remorse. I want to follow thy ideals, as revealed in the lives of noble men; but thou knowest my weaknesses and the temptations that assail me, and the lure of things that are not what they seem to be.

I pray for the strength to begin again and for patience to endure when the path is long and steep. Give me confidence to know I am forgiven, that I may go forward unashamed, with face uplifted to the light of day, ready to meet the tasks before me with renewed courage. AMEN.

# The Hills

THE mountains stand steadfast and unshaken in the midst of storm and change. They are shrouded in elusive beauty as the rays of dawn rest upon their wooded slopes, as the splendor of the noonday sun burns through the mists and silhouettes them against the sky, and as the soft shadows of twilight transform them into mysterious symbols.

I thank thee, O maker of heaven and earth, for the mountain top that brings me a vision of the valleys with their towns and their toil, offering a refuge from the dusty lowlands and a new perspective on life's meaning. I see beyond the valleys of struggle, beyond the ranges that hem me about to the horizon that beckons onward. I watch the waterfall tumbling into the brook below and the clear stream flowing on to the river and to the sea. They remind me of thy purposes, which run through history, bearing man on to a goal. I hear the echo of my voice from across the valley, like thy answer to my call.

Under thy creative guidance, the everlasting hills have been established, offering their vistas to man. O eternal and abiding presence, quiet my restlessness, replace my fears with courage and my doubts with belief in the laws of nature and in thy protecting care. Grant that my life may be attuned to thy praise and dedicated to the building of thy kingdom of harmony and right relations on the earth. AMEN.

## Failure

FAILURE imprisons me and hems me around with its gray walls, and I am disheartened. I lift up my thoughts to thee, thou who hast been the strength and redeemer of men through the generations. Forgive me for yielding before the enemies of fear and discouragement. Circumstances were so difficult that there seemed to be no hope, and I gave up. As I look back, I can see how different my lot would be if I had stood my ground.

Gracious Father, I thank thee for the help that has come to me in days of testing and for the victories that I have been able to win in the past. In thy presence, I feel that my failures have not been in vain, that I have learned something from them; and that thy purposes are working through me, leading me to something better. Be with me, I pray thee, in the midst of my present struggle, as thou hast helped others who have failed. I try to understand that, in every moment of hardship, there is never more than I can carry; and that, if I do my part and trust in thee, I will find a way through.

Grant me courage to make a new beginning. With faith in thee and in my own power to succeed, give me strength to begin again and to win the victory. AMEN.



## Trust

CREATOR of time and space, governor of the universe, each day I behold thy power in life around me, and I believe that thou art great enough to help me in my needs. God of the sunset and the flowers, I see on every hand proof of thy protecting care, and I believe that thou art attentive to my prayers.

May thy power quiet me and thy love make me feel secure. I want to be strong in the midst of temptation and danger. Help me to develop a brave faith as I look out upon a world filled with wrong and misery. I long to know that thou art back of my efforts; that, when I have done my best, I can place my trust in thy guidance.

Free me from unworthy desires, from fear, and from bitterness. Thou who art my father, teach me to trust thee at all times, everywhere and without reservation, that I may rise above my difficulties and win "a peace which the world can neither give nor take away." Grant me in all my duties thy strength, in all my perplexities thy wisdom, in all my dangers thy protection. AMEN.

## Daily Routine

ETERNAL God, who art the creator of the small as well as the great, help me to discover thy spirit in humble tasks. I realize that I look for thy manifestations in spectacular ways, neglecting to remember that thy projects are ever at work, silent and unseen, like the leaven in the bread. May thy ideals of faith, hope, and love begin in my heart like seed and grow until they bring some blessing to the world.

Protect me, I pray, from the enemy of routine, which dulls my aspirations and makes every enterprise a tiresome repetition of small endeavors. Save me from fatigue, which breaks my spirit and leads me to compromise with easier goals. I pray for fresh enthusiasm and for will power to sustain me in enduring effort. Forgive me, my Father, if I have failed to demonstrate the cheerful spirit, if I have been inconsiderate of my comrades, or if I have shunned the responsibilities of sharing with others.

Help me to practice thy presence day by day, to live in the consciousness that thou art always with me, as I go about the duties of home, school, and street. Grant me the sense of thy guidance in my daily tasks. May I grow in knowledge and in charity, in faithfulness to thee, and in usefulness to my fellow men. AMEN.

## *Before Sleep*

AS THE shadows fall and all living things follow the summons of nature, cease their strivings, and turn to rest, so would I lay aside my work to find new strength through sleep. Creator of the world, I know that darkness and light are both alike to thee, that thy power and love constantly undergird my existence. Banish all doubt and fear from my mind. Let me fall asleep thinking of the joyful experiences of my life: the moonlit lake and the silent thrust of my canoe paddle, as I glided smoothly over the water; a hike through the woods, with the smell of the hemlock and pine about me; a night in the out-of-doors, sleeping on the shore with the soft summer breezes on my face, when the silent stars seemed close and peace filled my heart.


As I think of the day just ending, I realize that I have made mistakes, but I know thou hast forgiven me. I would lay aside all sense of failure, all worry and regret, and rest peacefully, that I may arise refreshed and ready for a new day, with all its thrilling opportunities. AMEN.

## Harvest-time

**A**LMIGHTY ruler of heaven and earth, under whose protection I live and move and have my being, I lift up my praise to thee for autumn and harvest-time. Touched by the breath of the frost, maples and oaks are resplendent in their gold and scarlet. Corn stands in the fields of man's planting, row upon row, as a reward granted for his toil in cultivating the good earth. The apple limbs hang low, as if in gratitude for blossomtime, the summer's sun and rain, and for the invigorating breath of the fall. Ducks fly in their phalanx formation under the weakening rays of the sun, on their pilgrimage to the southland.

I give thee hearty thanks for the bounties of nature, beseeching thee to give me wisdom to use them to thy glory and for the relief of those in need. As the days grow shorter and man prepares for the winter's coming, I pray that I may know how to number my days that I may apply my heart unto wisdom. AMEN.

# Discouragement

 GOD, deliver me from melancholy thoughts. When troubles afflict me and burdens grow heavy, help me to remember that thou art the ruler of the world, the center of truth, and the helper of men. Keep me from envying those who build their position through dishonorable means. Save me from striving to create happiness through acquiring material possessions. Grant me insight to seek the true values of character.

My Father, I cannot master life without thee. Let thy light flood my mind, I pray, that anxieties may flee and hope be restored. Help me to realize that every experience has its purpose for me and that there is nothing to fear in life or death, because thy love is always around me, protecting me. May I understand thy care for me, so that I shall no longer be afraid of handicaps, of hard tasks, of opposition and criticism. Counting on thy laws to protect me, realizing that I can never grow beyond thy love, may I master my discouragements with confidence. AMEN.

## My Share

ETERNAL Father, forgive me for my failure to see thy spirit at work in the world about me. Forbid that I should be like the foolish people of Jesus' time, who looked for a leader to save them through material means or military force, and failed to understand why he gave his life upon the cross. Let me not yield in despair before the world's discouragements and fail to join my efforts with those who battle for progress in my time. Save me from blindness and lack of sensitivity.

Open my eyes, that I may recognize the movements toward human uplift around me and join myself with those who endeavor to carry forward the ideals of enlightenment and good will. Help me to share the sacrificial spirit of leaders about me who are striving for justice and progress.

O God, may I be stirred to nobler living, that I may train myself in the discipline of those who serve. In a world where so much needs to be done to overcome evil and uphold the right, help me to be ready to do my part. May I follow in Jesus' way, and share with him and his followers of the present hour in the rebuilding of the war-ravaged world.

AMEN.


## Winter

AS THE snow falls gently against my window I give thanks, O divine spirit, for the cycle of the seasons and for the ever-changing beauty of the universe. A mantle of purity is spread over the drab earth, and the evergreens bow humbly in their vestments of white. The noises of men cease; a new stillness envelops the world, and thy voice speaks to me through the elements.

Surely the power that can create a billion snowflakes, in numberless variety and of perfect symmetrical form, to sparkle for a moment in the sunlight and then vanish, is also mindful of me and the length of my days.

As I look upon this beauty, I think of thee as the source from which it all comes, and I am drawn closer to thee. Give me faith to believe that the order which sustains the ever-varying pageantry of nature will also uphold me. Lord of life, make me quiet long enough to hear thee speak above the murmur of my desires, the clamor of much speaking, and the confusions of mankind. Breathe into my life the peace and purity of the snow. AMEN.

# *On the Death of a Loved One*

 UT of the depths do I cry unto thee, O God. Hear my voice. Let thine ears be attentive to my supplication. The mystery of death has come near me, and one who was close to me walks no longer by my side. In my sorrow and loneliness, I turn to Thee, the only refuge that I know. I come from thee; I return to thee; and life has meaning while I am on the earth only as I live close to thee.

God, my Father, my way has grown dark. I reach out to thee like a child who is lost in the night and whose only defense is a cry. Help me to remember that, in thy sight, the pathways of life and death are only different roads along which thy children journey; and that whether they dwell in this world or in the next, they can never be separated from thy protecting care. In thy keeping are the living and the dead, for underneath are thy everlasting arms.

May I find strength in the universal faith of mankind that life goes on beyond the limit of earthly years, that what we call death is only a gate in a garden wall that leads onward to new adventures. I would rest my troubled heart in the vision of saints and sages who believe in immortality. Teach me in my sorrow a sympathy for others, as my grief binds me to them with new understanding. Help me to see beyond my tears into the deeper meaning of life, that I may know the values that never pass away. Grant me the



comfort that thou alone canst give. May the solace of thy peace quiet the restlessness of my mind. Make me strong, my Father, to bear this adversity bravely, to carry on courageously, knowing that time heals and that, under thy guidance, a way will open that will transform this present darkness into light. AMEN.

## Evening

GRACIOUS Father, as the evening shadows fall, I crave a peace far deeper than the world can give. With the coming of the night, when men have always turned aside to talk with thee, I make my evensong for the blessing of the daylight and for the rest that comes when twilight creeps over the earth.

As I bow in silence, memories rise before me: Nature's provision for my needs, the service of those who bring protection and comfort to me, the devotion of loved ones, the ideal pattern of Jesus' life, the inspiration of the church. As I measure what I have given by what I have received, I realize my many shortcomings and failures. Forgive me for the record of the day just ending, and with the light of morning may I begin again with new hope and new courage.

In thy presence, the vision of unfading light, purity, and long-suffering love rises before me. Open my mind to thy grace until selfishness is burned out, until I am purged from sin and my will becomes strong through fellowship with thine.

I commend myself into thy hands, with all my friends and the needy people of the earth. Grant protection to all who are in peril, wisdom for those in doubt, peace for those in distress, and rest for all the weary. Keep us under thy blessed care this night and evermore. AMEN.


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## *Companions Along the Way*





# Brotherhood

 THOU who hast been worshiped under many names and rites by men throughout the centuries, we recognize thee as the God of all nations and races. We thank thee for the prophets of all faiths who have taught us to dwell together in brotherhood. Forgive us for our failures to live up to their ideals, for ignorance of other religions that causes us to look down upon them with scorn and superiority, for the prejudice that causes us to dislike those who are different from us, for the hatreds that divide us according to creeds, and for the persecutions and wars that intolerant men have waged against their fellows.

As we look back upon the years that have passed, shame and sorrow overcome us. The strife and destruction that have resulted because of our failure to understand thy truth rise up to shame us. Grant us, we pray thee, wisdom to follow the teachings of thy prophets and sages, that we may unite our efforts in upholding the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. May we join hands, without regard for class, creed, or color, and labor together to overcome ignorance, disease, poverty, prejudice, and violence. Help us to cease wrangling over trivialities and emphasizing differences, when we should be one with those of good will in all lands, working for human freedom and progress.

O God, who hast given us the commandment to love one another, give us the will and the strength to fulfill it. Direct our lives so that we may look

upon the good of others. Enlarge our minds until they are broad enough to include all thy children. Create within us a passion for righteousness, for the increase of brotherhood, in order that peace and prosperity may be established on our earth. AMEN.

## *Eternal Refuge*

WHEN the skies are overcast and the road is long, and our hearts are lonely, we turn to thee, O light that never fails. We believe in thee. Help thou our unbelief. We love thee, yet not with the complete devotion we should show. We long for thee, yet not with our whole mind. We come to thee, praying that thou wilt help us to become what we should be. We bring to thee the burdens of our hearts and of those throughout the world who are in need of help.

Bless all who face problems of worry, sorrow, and discouragement; all who may be sick, lonely, or afraid. When we walk through dark hours, give us faith to believe in the future and courage to overcome our obstacles. Save us from becoming slaves of our past mistakes. Teach us rather to rise above our failures, to firmer character and new achievement. Help us to think clearly, to remain cheerful, and to work heroically.

Look in mercy upon mankind; and whenever there is suffering or strife, grant thy comfort and thy hope. Through the faith and good will that we reveal, may there dawn a new day of brotherhood. Make us one with all thy seekers and finders, that at last we may be one with those who triumph over doubt and despair, until we live and move in thy eternal love. AMEN.

# Democracy




FATHER of mankind, we praise thee for the visions that never die, for belief in human beings and in human progress, for pioneers of democracy like Amos, Isaiah, Jesus, Milton, Roger Williams, Paine, Jefferson, Bolivar, Lincoln, Mazzini, and Sun Yat Sen. We remember all those who have sacrificed for freedom of speech, assembly, press, and conscience; and all those who have suffered to establish liberty, fraternity, and equality. We give thanks for the Christian Church, with its belief in the sacredness of personality, the value of the individual, and for its efforts to uplift the peoples of the earth.

We confess our failures to live up to this heritage, our sins of prejudice, discrimination, and greed. Give us strength, O God, to take our stand with the valiant company who build democracy in our time, and hold fast to the way of enlightenment and truth. As we have learned the laws of nature that we might gain wealth and power, so may we learn to master our relations one with another that we may gain justice and good will. Grant us wisdom to use the knowledge we discover for good, and not for evil; for the unfolding of life, and not for its suppression. Help us to grow beyond national allegiance and racial arrogance, until we become bound with citizens of different languages and flags into a world-wide fellowship of free men.

AMEN.



# The Bible


 GOD of our fathers, who hast been worshiped by thy children in all lands, we praise thee for the Bible, the glorious record of the quest of generations for truth. We thank thee for its pioneers who sought a better country, for prophets who battled against superstition and moral corruption, for martyrs who faced torture for their principles, for poets who sang of their visions, for sages who probed deeply into the meaning of life. This book is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. The grandeur of its thoughts lifts us out of ourselves. When we are lonely, its words bring us into thy presence; when we fail, its courage gives us faith to begin again; when we grope amid our doubts, it quickens us to believe.

We remember with gratitude the heroes who first spoke its winged words, those who gathered together its traditions; the scholars in libraries and monasteries who copied it letter by letter, and the linguists who translated it into many languages to bring it to the peoples of all nations. We praise thee for the search of the Hebrew and Christian peoples after reality, for the evolution of a religion great enough to satisfy the aspirations of men. Teach us to read the pages of the Bible, to become familiar with the personalities and the immortal truths portrayed there.

O God, our help in ages past, help us to experience the liberation that the Bible brings to the


minds of those who grasp its message. Help us to recognize the manifestations of thy spirit in the events of our time. Be to us and our leaders the living word that can guide us forward in ways of brotherhood and progress. AMEN.

## Grace at Meals

UR Father, we thank thee that thou hast provided through the bounty of nature food for all men. Help us to see that no one goes hungry because of our selfishness. As we eat to our satisfaction, may we remember the labor of those who have brought this food to our table: those who have planted the seed and cultivated the soil; those who have transported the harvest from far-distant areas; those who have distributed it and delivered it to our doors; and those who, with loving care, have prepared it for our enjoyment.

Give us grateful hearts to remember that all good things come only through the price of labor. In return for our many blessings, may we praise thee with lives of nobility and service. AMEN.

## Those Who Care

UR Father, we know that we are thy children, bound by a sacred vow with our brother, Jesus Christ, to bring the kingdom of love into the world. We are linked by a covenant to care for all people, to serve and sacrifice for their welfare. By our Christian profession we are members of the fellowship of those who care.

O spirit of love, drive home to our hearts the understanding that the reign of Jesus' ideals can come only through our efforts. Save us from living as hermits, self-centered in our pride. We would be swept out into the current of service, where gigantic enterprises are in the making, where bold grapplings with old foes are in process, where waters of life are carrying new hope to the parched areas of the earth. Help us to give ourselves to the divine force of friendliness, creating through faith and good will the leaven that will redeem humanity.

Teach us, O God, to comprehend the heart of our religion in this simple practice of caring for our brothers. Let us never forget that to care is to love, to love is to transform, and to transform is to build thy kingdom on the earth. Bring us, we beseech thee, into the fellowship of those who care enough to sacrifice for mankind. AMEN.


## *For Our Community*

**G**OD of our fathers and brothers everywhere, we pray for our community. Forgive us for our petty loyalties, our self-centered ambitions, and our failures to live as good neighbors should. Help us to understand those who differ from us in language, race, or religion, remembering that we are all members of one family. May our agreements become greater than our differences, and may unity of purpose bind us together.

Bless our homes, that they may be the abiding places of idealism and good will. Arouse our churches and synagogues, and make them centers for faith and service. Strengthen our schools, that they may lead youth to truth, and inspire them to pioneer in the ways of enlightenment and progress. Make us equal to our high trusts, reverent in the use of freedom, just in the exercise of power, and generous in the protection of the needy.

May wisdom and brotherhood be the stability of our times. Fill us with thy divine passion to lift the downtrodden, to sweep away oppression, and to give to every man a full life. Enlist us all as workers in the building of a better community and a better world. **AMEN.**

# Worship

 THOU who hast made us for thyself, our hearts are restless until they rest in thee. When we think of thee we forget our limitations and reach beyond ourselves to the realm of thy limitless power. When we pray to thee and work in harmony with thy laws, peace comes to us, a contentment that the world can neither give nor take away. In thy presence we find rest; in thy wisdom we find truth; in thy mercy we find forgiveness; in thy love we find an answer to the evil of the world.

O thou who dwellest in light unapproachable, on a level of development beyond the grasp of our mortal minds, we reach out to thee, seeking after what we need so desperately and cannot achieve through our efforts alone. May the sunshine of thy love drive the shadows from our lives, and make them centers of health, cheerfulness, and courage. Break through the mists of doubt, dispelling the clouds that impede our progress, making clear the way that we should follow. Come nearer to us than we have ever known thee in our happiest moments of vision and lead us onward, that we may learn more of the wonder of thy laws.

Light the flame of faith upon the altar of our minds. Help us to praise thee with lives of radiant service. Because we have paused these moments and lifted our hearts to thee, may we be able to live more nobly today. Send us forth into the world with love toward all men, with hope to impart to

the discouraged, with support to offer to every good cause, and with faith in the ultimate triumph of right. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. AMEN.

## *Friends*

WE THANK thee, our Father, for the wonderful gift of friendship. Forgive us if we have been untrue to our friends.

How barren, how lonely, life would be without them! For the friends who believe in us when we fail and encourage us in our despair, for the friends who challenge us to play the game and who share our hopes and our dreams, we thank thee.

We are grateful for the carefree days of pleasure spent with our companions. Help us to live up to their faith in us. Forgive us for our fickleness and insincerity. Save us from jealousy and from the thoughtless words that bring misunderstanding.

Inspire us to learn the larger meaning of friendship, that we may have comrades, not only among our neighbors, but among people of all nations and races. Grant, our Father, that we may help create a fellowship of friends that will transform the world through the contagion of kindness and good will. AMEN.




## *The Church*

**W**E THANK Thee, our Father, for the devotion that has kept religion alive in history and led thy Church forward through the centuries. We give thanks for thy living Church, the foundation of which is the faith of men; the walls and pillars, the courage of human hearts; the buttresses, the good will that reaches out into the life of humanity; and the arches that overtower its beauty and hold the temple firm, the clasp of brothers hand in hand.

Strengthen this bond of brotherhood, and make us one with this vast family of believers who are united in the purpose of serving mankind. Consecrate us, divine leader, in this moment as we remember the valiant Christians who have gone before us: prophets, saints, pioneers, and martyrs. Help us to work as builders of faith's unfinished cathedral, where all people will some day worship thee before the altar of truth and love, and will go out as classes, nations, and races to live together in a harmonious world family. AMEN.

## Progress

 UR Father, we give thanks for every indication of progress in the midst of the world's struggles, for every sign that love is alive in human hearts and that humanity is quickened by nobler aspirations. We give thanks for the evidence of thy spirit as we see it revealed in indignation against wrong, in the sacrifice of people who work for the good of others, and in man's unconquerable faith in a better order.

Let the visions that have inspired prophets and seers through the centuries find a place in our minds. Help us to look upon our fellow men with the eyes of a brother, and to sympathize with our comrades of every class and color. Inspire us to use our powers of mind, to extend the spirit of tolerance into a world that is torn by discord and cursed by misunderstanding. As thou, the Father of all, dost love us, so may we love one another.

Teach us how to establish a world government, to use arbitration in place of war, to avoid the waste of destruction through the influence of reason and good will. May our love conquer the world's woe. May our faith rise in triumph over despair, until the shackles of prejudice fall from peoples enslaved by pride and ignorance, and co-operation brings peace to mankind. AMEN.

## World Peace

FATHER of all mankind, we look out upon a world that is cursed by hatreds. Millions stalk like shadows across the earth, homeless, hungry, begging for a chance to live in peace. We know that our world is not right. With all the provisions of nature and the capacities of man's mind, there should be security for all.

The cries of needy comrades are drowned out by drilling armies that strive to preserve the walls of separation among thy children. Fortresses and weapons threaten everywhere. Wealth is squandered on monsters of war that breathe terror to humanity. O spirit of love, awaken our strength, that we may match our lives against these ways of death!

Let us no longer speculate about brotherhood, but cast ourselves into the Christian revolution which can bring fullness of life to mankind and a new epoch of freedom to the earth. Enlist us, we pray, in a crusade to free the world from the curse of national hatreds and the tyranny of war. Help us to live as peacemakers and demonstrate in daily life the tolerance and co-operation upon which alone we can succeed in building the foundations of enduring peace. AMEN.

## School


WE THANK Thee, our Father, for the privileges offered in our school; for the sacrifice of its builders and the devotion of its leaders; for its friendship and opportunities, and for the quest after knowledge which thou hast placed in our mind. Help us when the way grows hard and dull, and our work becomes humdrum and meaningless, to carry on faithfully and diligently, knowing that some reward will come in the end. In the classroom, may our study be honest and thorough; and in recreation, may we learn how to play the game. In all our efforts, help us to keep untarnished the honor of our school.

We thank thee for the urge to learn, to shoulder burdens, to work at difficult tasks, and to press forward to new achievements. Bless the schools and colleges of the world as they enlighten minds and build characters. Bless those who give their lives to teaching with meager compensation, and help us to show our gratitude to them. Inspire men in all lands to establish more centers of learning, that ignorance, prejudice, and poverty may be conquered; that they may find the truth that will make them free.

Help us, O God of light, to remember that we are seeking an education, not in order to acquire wealth and power, but that we may develop a tolerant and understanding mind, with appreciation for the treasures of culture, and that we may live in harmony with our fellow men. Help us to

use our talents for the enrichment of life and not hoard them away or squander them foolishly. May our aim be "not to be ministered unto, but to minister." AMEN.

# Heritage

 GOD of the generations as they come and go, we remember the prophets and reformers who have toiled through the centuries to make life nobler and happier. As we think of them, our hearts are quickened by the high resolve to serve as they served. We think of Jesus, Paul, Augustine, of Saint Francis, Roger Bacon, Copernicus, Galileo, of Livingstone, Wilberforce, Lincoln, Edison, and numberless others who have pioneered for progress and good will.

We would join with all those who strive for the uplift of life, preserving the vision of the trailblazers of yesterday and extending their ideals to new areas of tomorrow's world. Make us worthy of those who have gone before; may we pass on their heritage. Let our love for thee and for mankind inspire us to outgrow the petty ideas of the present, that we may be able to free humanity from prejudice, hatred, and war. Enlist us in a worldwide fellowship that shall bind together the peoples of every nation and race in a crusade for liberty and peace. AMEN.

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*Peaks of Vision*







# Advent

**E**TERNAL and everlasting God, we thank thee for the quickening spirit of this sacred season: for hope that stirs our minds, for friendliness that binds us together and for joy that heartens the world. O thou, who hast called all nations into thy kingdom and in whose sight all men are thy children, draw together the peoples of the earth. Through increasing good will in human hearts, conquer the sinister forces that shatter brotherhood.

Dispel, O God, the gray shadows that hover over us and let us hear the chorus of faith from the heavens. Set our hearts in tune with hope. Assure us that thy love will triumph in our struggling world. Increase our faith in one another and in the power of thy spirit in the lives of men. So may justice and mercy prevail among thy earthly family and peace come among the nations.

Almighty God, we thank thee for Jesus, the star of the morning and the light of the world. We commemorate his nativity, his lowly toil, his friendship for the troubled, his love for the forgotten, his brave endurance in time of testing, and his victory over evil. We rejoice to know that, as he was here on earth, thou art continually. Thou hast not drawn apart from humanity, but art with us in our toil and struggle.

Prepare our minds, we beseech thee, that his spirit may dwell with us and ever reign in our thoughts and affections as the Prince of Peace.  
AMEN.


## Christmas

**G**OD of this festive season, may the joy of friendships and family gatherings, and the giving of gifts, illuminate our lives with a radiance that will transform the drabness of the world. May the tender memories of Christmas stay with us always to brighten our lives in days of adversity. Let no distractions or busyness with trivial things keep us from the pilgrimage of the shepherds and the sages. May we open our hearts to the color and cheer of this anniversary, and to the coming of thy spirit into human life.

As we sing the carols of his nativity, may new hope quicken our hearts, and may their sweet tones dispel the discords of human life. May we lift our eyes above the darkened earth to the star that summons us to glorious living. May the candle flame point us to the light of thy truth, and the burning yule logs warm our hearts toward the needy and the lonely. Shed abroad throughout the earth the Christmas friendliness, until animosities are forgotten and hatreds disappear, until suffering is relieved and mankind bows before the Prince of Peace.

Let not our minds be busy inns, where there is no room for the Christ of Christmas, but rather open doors, where the spirit of this friend of all men will enter and find an abiding place. Help us to know that close at hand the Christ child is waiting to be welcomed into our lives. AMEN.

# The New Year

 LORD, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made, thou art God from everlasting to everlasting. All things wax old as a garment, but thou art the same, and thy years fail not.

Our life is but a moment in the vastness of eternity. All about us is commotion and change, but in thy presence we find truth that is permanent and unchanging. O give us, we pray thee, at the beginning of this new period of time, a sense of thy eternal presence. As we face another year, with its uncertainty and unknown demands, uphold us and make us strong. Let thy love shine upon our pathway when it grows dark. May the vision of thy purposes lead us onward to the dawn of better days. Help us to understand the solemn meaning of our earthly years and the high calling for which they are given.

Thou hast richly blessed us in the past. Still lead us by thy hand. Admonish and guide us by thy spirit. Whatever light may shine or darkness fall, keep us in the fellowship of those who trust and obey thee, and in the love and service of our fellow men. This prayer is made in the spirit of the pioneers and builders of the past. AMEN.

## Lent




THOU whose spirit hath appeared in humanity, we thank thee for the life of Jesus; the beauty of his character, the radiance of his faith, the heroism of his devotion. We remember the forty days he spent in the wilderness searching for the truth, which we commemorate as the springtime of nature and of the soul.

We repent because of the evil in life and our part in it. Help us to master our greed and selfishness, and to live for the good of others. Teach us self-control and temperance. Save us from aimlessness and petty interest. Give us power to win victory over all influences that pull us downward. During these days of early spring, may we take time for private meditation and for worship in the Church. May we deny ourselves and give something to help humanity.

O God of truth and mercy, we find no rest until our hearts are one with thee. As followers of the young hero of Galilee, open our eyes that we may see him, enlarge our understanding that we may know him, and strengthen our wills that we may follow him. May every face that is now pale with fear, furrowed with care, or hardened by selfishness be lifted up to a vision of his love, until every countenance becomes a mirror that reflects his peace. AMEN.

## Good Friday

 FATHER of love and compassion, we pray today for all those who suffer; for the hungry, weary multitudes of the earth; for those who bear the pain of sickness and the anguish of grief. We pray for the unemployed, the homeless, the destitute; for those who are overworked, downtrodden, and in despair. O God of mercy, grant that we may behold today the eternal sufferer on his cross, waiting for us to liberate him by breaking the chains of evil that enslave mankind.

On a storm-swept hill, long ago, Jesus made clear the way of love to men. Forgive us our failure to follow his ideals. On this day the vision of his noble spirit and long-suffering love steals over us, and we desire to begin a new life of comradeship with him, who made this holy hour to be remembered through the centuries. Quickened our hearts, that we may heed our brothers' cry in need, and labor valiantly to free them from pain and death.

Help us to hold fast to his way of life regardless of the cost; and if suffering comes to us, may we bear it bravely, knowing that nothing can ever separate us from thy love. When our strength is spent, help us to remember that thy everlasting arms are underneath us and that the Good Shepherd walks besides us, cheering our way. AMEN.

## Easter



THOU who didst make the stars and turn the shadow of death into the morning, we praise thee for the coming of spring, for the resurrection of Jesus' spirit over pain and death, and for the assurance that Easter brings to our lives.

With the opening of flowers and the hallelujahs of praise, we know that our loved ones who have passed through the gateway of death live with thee in a more abiding world. Because of his conquest, we know that love is immortal; that death is only a horizon, and a horizon is only the limit of our earthly sight. Lift our vision, that we may see beyond the changes of time to the things that never pass away.

Give us faith to realize that every truth that is trampled down by evil and every ideal that seems to be buried in darkness will rise again. We know that right will prevail over wrong and life will overcome death. Awaken our minds to the glory of Easter morning. As Jesus conquered the shadows of the tomb, so may we overcome the evils that keep our lives from being what they should be. Attune our thoughts to songs of victory, that we may be one with the company of those who live with thee in eternal joy. AMEN.

## Pentecost

WE THANK thee, God our Father, for the birthday of the Christian Church; for the little company of men who met together to carry on the ideals of Jesus and who became conscious, as they prayed in ancient Jerusalem, of thy nearness and thy power. We thank thee that the Church which they established has survived the centuries, and that it has won many conquests over the enemies of mankind.

We remember with gratitude the Christians who lifted a torch of hope in ancient times, as ambassadors of good will; builders of havens of mercy; friends of the outcast, the slave, the orphan, the poor, and the sick; martyrs in the arenas and upon flaming crosses; refugees who hid in catacombs because of their faith in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Make us worthy, we pray, to follow in their footsteps.

Rekindle in our minds the faith of those who at Pentecost felt thy spirit close about them, that we may be stirred from our indolence to strive with enthusiasm for progress. May the fire of thy spirit purify us from evil desire, from doubt and fear. Heal the divisions of thy Church, and bind our discordant voices into an anthem of praise. Forgive us for the petty differences that we have created between ourselves and other Christians. Unite us in a universal fellowship of good will, in service to one another and to thee. AMEN.

## Mother's Day



GOD, who hast set thy children in families, we thank thee for the love that binds us together—mother and father, parent and child, sister and brother—and for all the ties of affection that create our homes. Today we pay tribute to the spirit revealed in our mothers: for the devoted care that protected us in danger, that nursed us in illness, keeping lonely vigil by our bedside; for the teaching of high ideals and patient guidance in right living, and for their belief in us and in our capacity to live up to the best. Their tenderness and loving care give us proof that there is a great power of love in our world.

Forgive us for the disappointments and needless anxieties we have caused our mothers, and for the appreciation that has remained unexpressed. Make us more worthy of their love; may we share our gratitude to them while we are young and reveal our affection to them day by day.

Bless our mothers; keep them in health and happiness. Grant them the reward of seeing us succeed. Help us to live up to their dreams for us. We pray for mothers everywhere who may be burdened with sorrow and suffering. Their spirit compels us to work for the correction of injustice, the conquest of hatred, and the establishment of peace on earth.  
AMEN.



# Memorial Day

**G**OD of our fathers, who hast made us the heirs of all generations, we thank thee for every memory that enriches life with high ideals. We remember today all those who have loved this land of ours, and who have struggled to make it a place of justice and brotherhood.

We thank thee for all who have labored for a friendly world, free from hatred and war. As they gave themselves to overcome the hostile forces of their time, so may we give our best efforts to lead humanity on its slow upward climb to ways of co-operation and peace. As we thank thee for the men and women who have given their lives for America, we remember all who have toiled in offices and laboratories, in factories and courts, in homes and schools, on farms and highways of communication, to bring human understanding to our world.

Make us worthy, we pray, of our heritage. We thank thee for those dear to us, perhaps forgotten by the world, who are living still in our memories. Our faith in thee assures us that there is no death for the spirit and that we live forever with thee. Grant that we may hear the voices of those gone before us, bidding us further every noble cause that they have served; declaring to us that, without our support, they shall have labored in vain. Inspire us to extend their ideals as we work together for a finer and freer world. AMEN.

# Commencement

○ ON THIS eventful day, we give thanks, O God, for this center of learning; for the idealism of its founders, the guidance of teachers, the sacrifice of parents, the help of friends, and the efforts that we have made which have brought us to this hour.

Bless our school, that it may continue to be a center for guidance and inspiration. As we express gratitude for the advancement of knowledge in the past, we pray for progress upon new frontiers that beckon us onward in our time. May we carry the torch of learning into areas of human need and push back the fringes of darkness. As we recognize the achievements of men in other ages, may we sense that we have power to shape history in the present. Help us to apply the discoveries made in books and laboratories to human relations.

Inspire us, our Father, to become builders of happy homes, progressive communities, and a world free from suffering and strife. May we hold to the vision that makes us citizens of the world and of thy kingdom of justice and peace. Help us to keep the open mind, the humility to realize how much there is to learn, and the willingness to work. Save us from being quitters when the way grows hard. May we hold fast in time of adversity and use our hardships as stepping stones toward our goals of achievement. May nothing along the way rob us of the vision of what life should be. AMEN.

# Holy Communion

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, we come apart from the world to share in this ancient sacrament of the Church, and to meditate in thy presence. May we still our passions and fears, and open our minds to thy spirit. Let thy peace take possession of us; and lift our thoughts above everything that is low and mean, that we may live close to goodness, truth, and beauty. O source of the light that never sets and the love that never fails, life of our life, Father of our spirits, draw us, thy weak and faulty children, nearer to thee in trust and love, and in obedience to thy laws.

We remember Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed, how he met with his disciples and shared with them a simple meal, and how this custom among his followers became a memorial to him. We recall the warmth of his nature, the friendliness with which he met others, his courage in the face of danger, his heroic love for men and his faith that conquered the world's sin and sorrow. May our hearts be stirred as were those who broke bread with him in ancient Jerusalem, until all pure and noble things appeal to us, and we fear nothing in life except that which is unworthy in thy sight.

We think of the company of those who have shared in this sacrament in generations past, our loved ones who worshiped and served thee, and the noble Christians of all centuries. As we gather

about his table, we feel ourselves part of the fellowship that unites us with peoples of all nations and races, who, through allegiance to his ideals, become one body. Unite us with thee, with them, and with one another, that we may follow his path of service and of joy. AMEN.

## Labor Day

WE PRAY for all who labor day and night around the world, with whom we are bound by a thousand ties of interdependence. We recognize that food, clothing, shelter, commerce, culture, and philosophy are ours because of the debt we owe to others who toil for us. We think of the builders of skyscrapers, tunnels, bridges, ships, and planes; of operators of machines, flaming steel furnaces, and subways; of laborers in mine, field, and jungle, and amid the whirr of the production line; of those who risk their lives to keep arteries of communication open by land, sea, and air. May they be conscious of our appreciation and receive the satisfaction that comes through work well done.

We remember in thy presence workers who are enslaved in many lands, whose cry for justice is lifted up to thee: for conscript laborers in Africa; for child apprentices in China and Japan; for the farmers of India enslaved by debts; for peons of Latin America and sharecroppers of our nation; for slum dwellers, whose pallid faces long for the sun; for watchers of machines, who live and die under the shadow of bleak factories and the smoke of belching chimneys. We pray for the weary, the sick, and the oppressed who labor without hope; for those who are underpaid; for those who have little leisure and beauty; for the jobless and the homeless.

Forgive us for the exploitation of life, for the effort to wrest wealth from the poverty of others, for

avaricious grasping after personal gain. May we learn that all workers are our brothers. Enlighten our minds, that we may abolish the evils of oppression. May we all find work to strengthen our muscles and call out the best that is within us, as we toil for the common good. Unite us with our fellow men in use of hand and brain, that there may be bread for the starving and brotherhood for the lonely. May we labor together to build a world free from insecurity, waste, and exploitation. We pray in the spirit of the carpenter of Nazareth, whose hands were calloused with toil and were ever ready to serve. AMEN.

## Armistice Day

WE THANK thee, God of our fathers, for the founders of America and for all those who, through the centuries past, have sacrificed in peace and war for our nation. While we give thanks for the peace that is ours, our hearts are heavy with the world's woes. We lift up our voices with multitudes of others against our common foe, war.

We pray for those who still mourn loved ones lost in the last conflict, and for comrades who still suffer in hospitals and asylums from the ravages of its destruction. We pray for victims in many lands—homeless children, exiles, and refugees—who walk the everlasting road of suffering. Comfort and aid these unhappy people, O God.


Guide, we pray thee, the statesmen of our country and of all nations. Give to them and to us the patience to understand viewpoints different from our own, to be tolerant and willing to sacrifice our national loyalties for the greater good of humanity. Turn us from misguided ways; redeem us from fear, hatred, and bloodshed. Grant that the divided peoples of the earth may reach beyond fortresses and propaganda, and join hands in co-operation. As we have sacrificed together to preserve ourselves in time of war, so may we work together to establish international order.

Restore our broken world to the ways of peace, we implore thee. Show us what we may do to help mankind, and through us create the will to

peace. Draw all men unto thee and one to another by the bonds of thy love. Make thy Church one and fill it with thy spirit, that by thy power it may unite thy people in a brotherhood in which justice, truth and freedom may flourish, through the name of the great peacemaker, Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.



# Thanksgiving

 GIVER of every gift, we remember the spirit of our Pilgrim forefathers, which caused them to give thanks for thy guidance amid the bleakness and hunger of the Plymouth colony. We recognize the part that belief in thy laws has played in the building of America, and we also praise thee for what life holds for us today. We praise thee for seed-time and harvest, for all the provisions nature makes for those who labor with intelligence.

We thank thee for this vast land given to us as an inheritance, for our fathers who established its communities, for those who have toiled and sacrificed for human freedom and just government. We praise thee for patriarchs, prophets, pioneers, scientists, teachers, and public servants; for all who have resisted falsehood and upheld the right; for all who have overcome backwardness and despair, and pushed forward to new horizons.

Almighty God, bless our country with sound learning, honorable industry, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance; and from every evil way. Guide those to whom public responsibilities are committed. Give them wisdom and moral courage. Grant that the leaders of our nation may seek the guidance of thy spirit.

Help us all as fellow Americans to see clearly, to decide justly, and to act with united strength in the cause of freedom and fraternity. AMEN.











